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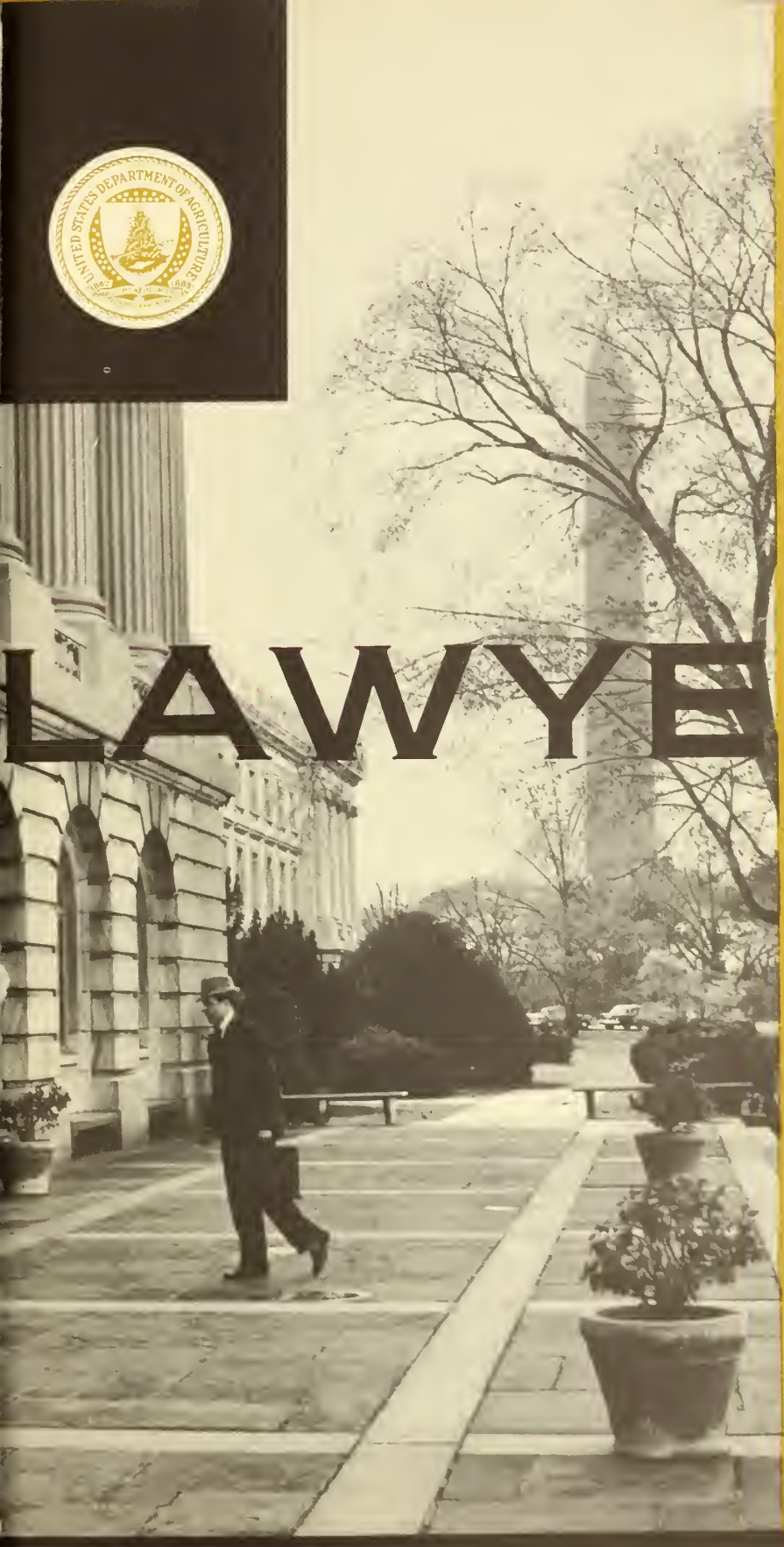

a career for LAWYERS *in the U.S. Department of Agriculture*

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Miscellaneous Publication No. 872

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE LAWYER IN GOVERNMENT

No place in our profession offers
greater opportunity and urge to grow
than the legal service of the Government . . .
The volume of experience, the intensity
of it, the sheer pressure to explore
special problems can hardly fail to make
faithful Government counsel, however humble
his beginnings, outstanding among the
competent men of his time.

Hon. Robert H. Jackson

(26 A.B.A.J. 412)

IDA. 189

A WORD ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE— YOUR PROSPECTIVE CLIENT

The Department of Agriculture administers programs that affect every person in the Nation. These widely diversified programs include the servicing, regulating, and financing of American agriculture and related activities in the production, marketing, handling, and use of agricultural commodities and their products. More than 70,000 employees at about 4,000 different locations help administer the programs.

Agriculture is the largest industry in our national economy. Our total farm assets are $203 billion. Annual farm income is $39 billion.

Agriculture is a major user of the products of industry. Farmers spend $25 billion annually for goods and services. They buy $1.5 billion worth of petroleum products a year; use 6.5 million tons of finished steel; consume more than 25 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, and enough rubber to put tires on 6 mil-

lion cars each year. For new buildings, equipment, and machinery, farmers spend $5 billion a year. Agriculture is the biggest user of public warehouse space and a major shipper on common carriers.

Most people think of agriculture primarily as a producer of food. But it is also an important supplier of raw materials for industry. One-third of the 500 industries listed in the Census of Manufacturers use agricultural commodities to produce nonfood products valued at more than $40 billion a year.

The Department of Agriculture plays a vital role in this great industry. Everyone is familiar, for example, with the national meat inspection service, which is performed under one of more than 50 regulatory laws administered by the Department. Other laws provide for the regulation of commodity exchanges, meatpackers, and stockyards, and the marketing of agricultural commodities. The programs for supporting and protecting farm income and prices and for developing foreign markets for agricultural products involve expenditures of billions of dollars and are of far-reaching significance to the national economy.

The Department aids farmers in soil and water conservation. It has charge of the national forests. It makes loans for farm acquisition, improvement, and production. It finances the construction and operation of electric power and telephone systems. It carries out the National School Lunch Program and other important programs in cooperation with the States. It conducts extensive research activities in production, utilization, and marketing of farm products and disseminates information concerning agricultural activities. The Department also has continuous planning responsibility for priorities and allocations for agricultural commodities and facilities which would be effective in time of national emergency.

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YOUR ROLE AS A LAWYER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A stimulating and rewarding career awaits you as a lawyer in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. You will be a member of a 200-man legal staff in the Office of the General Counsel, which performs all the legal work for the Department. You will find an opportunity to practice in the field of your interest.

The statement of Mr. Justice Jackson quoted on the inner cover is particularly applicable to service in the Office of the General Counsel. As a lawyer in this office you will participate in departmental actions that have a vital impact on the national economy. You will have an opportunity to contribute significantly to both public and private law. Many agricultural decisions in the courts have become benchmarks in constitutional and administrative law.

An attorney in the Office of the General Counsel has personal contact with the administrative officials who are his clients. He furnishes legal advice directly to these clients through all stages in the development, administration, and enforcement of departmental programs. The lawyer is not restricted to a narrow field of legal activity. He has an opportunity to engage in many legal functions that relate to his assigned program area. He gives oral advice, writes opinions and briefs, drafts all kinds of legal documents and regulations, drafts and interprets legislation, and engages in hearings and trial work.

Because of the volume and importance of the legal services that must be performed, an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel has an opportunity to handle complex and responsible legal work at an earlier stage in his career than in private practice. In addition, because he is representing the public interest, he is free from the personal and economic problems of individnal clients.

Attorneys have found their work in the Of-

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fice of the General Counsel to be a rewarding and stimulating basis for a career. The average length of service of attorneys now in the office is more than 15 years. Those who have elected to accept opportunities elsewhere, after a period of service in the office, have found that their experience qualified them for attractive positions in private practice and other fields of employment.

Here are some of the fields of law and program areas in which you may be engaged.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

(a) The Department administers more than 50 regulatory statutes—far more than any other agency in Government. These laws deal with all phases of the handling in interstate commerce of agricultural commodities and related products to prevent unfair practices, insure orderly marketing, and protect the public health, as well as to protect the animal and plant life of the country from the spread of diseases. Some of these laws affect meatpackers and stockyards, commodity exchanges, warehouses, processing plants, merchandisers, and other handlers of commodities in interstate commerce, as well as farmers. Lawyers in the Office of the General Counsel act as trial counsel in all administrative proceedings of an adversary nature. They are responsible for

pleadings, examination and cross-examination of witnesses, oral argument, and the filing of briefs. They also act as trial examiners—or presiding officers—in reparation proceedings for damages between private litigants.

(b) Department lawyers serve as counsel for the Secretary of Agriculture in proceedings before other Federal and State regulatory bodies, including the Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Maritime Board, Federal Power Commission, and State public service commissions.

TRIAL LITIGATION

In litigation in the Federal and State courts, Department lawyers serve as trial counsel or assistant trial counsel in scores of important cases each year. In these cases and hundreds of others in which they do not participate in the trial itself, they evaluate the evidence to determine the basis for action or defense, prepare the cases for trial, assist in pretrial proceedings, and draft pleadings, motions, and briefs.

APPELLATE LITIGATION

Lawyers in the Office of the General Counsel brief and argue some cases on appeal—particularly those that require expert knowledge in regulatory and other agricultural fields—in the various Federal and State courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States, United States Courts of Appeals, and State supreme courts.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND INTERPRETATION

Proposed legislation emanating from the Department of Agriculture is drafted in the Office of the General Counsel. Its attorneys work with Congressional committees and their staffs in drafting bills. They also prepare Department reports on bills, participate in Congressional hearings, and interpret statutes for Department administrators.

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UTILITY FINANCING

Attorneys handle the legal work for the Rural Electrification Administration, which has more than $4 billion in outstanding loans to more than 1,700 borrowers who own and operate electric and telephone systems. Borrowers include cooperative and commercial utility corporations, and cities, counties, and public utility districts. In addition to the legal services that REA needs to make secured loans to qualified borrowers, the legal work covers the field of corporate financing, municipal bond financing, and the construction and operation of electric and telephone systems.

N-27531

BUSINESS AND CORPORATE LAW

Department attorneys serve as legal counsel to the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Commodity Credit Corporation, one of the world's largest corporations, carries out price support, export, supply, and other programs. It engages in virtually every type of commercial transaction that could conceivably take place in a multibillion dollar operation of making loans, and acquiring, handling, storing, transporting, and disposing of vast quantities of agricultural products.

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The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation insures producers of certain commodities against unavoidable losses that result from natural hazards.

Lawyers who are assigned as counsel to these corporations handle not only the infinite variety of legal work that arises in the conduct of large commercial enterprises but also other

legal problems that are peculiar to corporate agencies of the United States which operate under broad Federal charters and a complex body of statutes.

DOMESTIC FARM LAW

Members of the office participate as legal advisers to Department officials in the development and administration of many varied and complex farm programs for improving and protecting farm income, disposing of surpluses, establishing and enforcing farm acreage allotments and marketing quotas, encouraging conservation practices, reducing surplus agricultural production through voluntary agreements with farmers, and facilitating orderly distribution and marketing of agricultural commodities. These programs involve expenditures of billions of dollars and are of far-reaching significance to the national economy.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

Lawyers perform a broad variety of legal services in connection with loans made or insured by the Farmers Home Administration for the acquisition and improvement of farm real estate and for the conservation and development of soil and water resources. These loans frequently involve corporate or municipal mortgage and bond financing, as well as operating and disaster loans.

FOREIGN TRADE

Department attorneys serve as counsel in the formulation and implementation of many programs involving exports and imports of agricultural commodities. These include programs for financing of sales abroad for foreign currencies, programs for the distribution of world wheat supplies under the International Wheat Agreement, the establishment of sugar quotas for foreign countries that supply the United States market, restrictions on imports, and barter transactions involving the exchange of surplus agricultural commodities for strategic and critical materials produced abroad.

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Many Department programs are complemented by similar programs in States. These programs raise important questions in Federal-State jurisdiction, in constitutional and statutory authority, and in other areas that require the balancing of State and Federal interests.

MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

Lawyers perform the varied legal services needed in managing the Department of Agriculture as an agency within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government—somewhat like "house counsel" for a major industrial corporation. These services relate to the appropriation and budgeting of funds, the acquisition and disposition of real and personal property,

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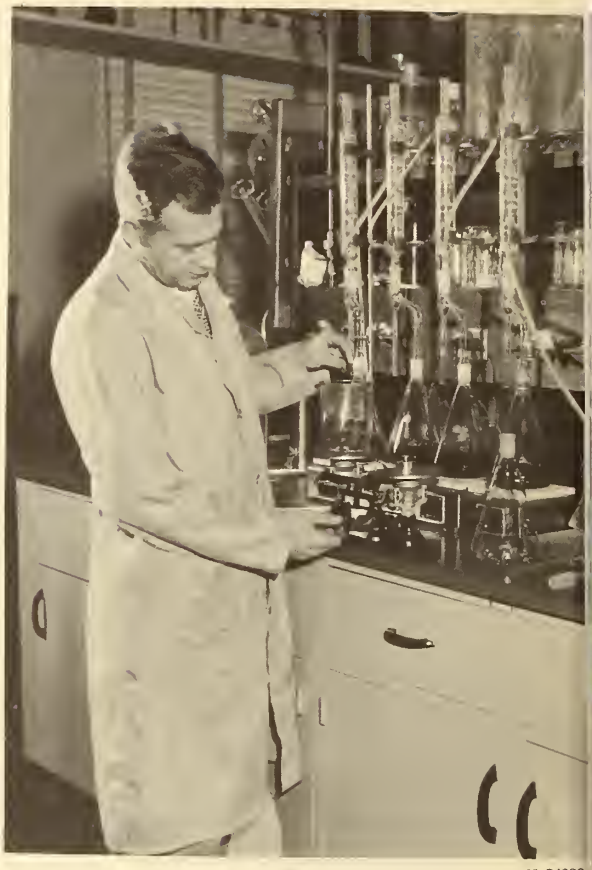
procurement of supplies and equipment, the employment of personnel, and the settlement of tort claims. Attorneys give legal advice to research agencies for their extensive research programs and to farmer cooperative organizations.

PATENT LAW

Discoveries by Department of Agriculture research scientists result in more than 100 new patent matters each year. These include discoveries in chemistry, medicine, industry, electronics and machinery. Department lawyers prepare and handle patent applications and represent the Department in all patent proceedings.

FORESTRY, LAND, AND WATER LAW

Members of the office serve as legal counsel for the Department in its administration of the national forests, submarginal lands, and land acquisition programs. Attorneys give legal advice on the Nation's soil and water conservation activities, which include cooperation with State and local soil conservation agencies and programs for watershed protection and flood prevention. The legal work relates to administrative proceedings, legislation, contractual matters, protection of forest properties, water rights, and the acquisition—including condemnation—of lands and interests in lands.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES

Young lawyers who are members of the bar in good standing and who possess the potential and ambition for growth are sought through two employment programs.

Under the General Counsel's Honors Program, graduates of law schools accredited by the American Bar Association who rank in the upper 15 percent of their graduating classes or who receive special honors, awards, or prizes are considered for appointment at Grade GS–9 ($6,435). Under the regular employment program, the entrance level for other graduates of accredited law schools is Grade GS–7 ($5,355). The number of openings, both in Washington and field offices, varies from time to time. Opportunities for advancement to higher grade levels are excellent for attorneys who merit promotion on the basis of their performance.

Annual Salary Rates by Grades
General Schedule, as of August 1961

Grade	Basic rates		Periodic increases [1]
	Minimum	Maximum	
5	$4, 345	$5, 335	$165
7	5, 355	6, 345	165
9	6, 435	7, 425	165
11	7, 560	8, 860	260
12	8, 955	10, 255	260
13	10, 635	11, 935	260
14	12, 210	13, 510	260
15	13, 730	15, 030	325
16	15, 255	16, 295	260
17	16, 530	17, 570	260
18	18, 500		

[1] At regular intervals an employee is advanced to the higher salary rates within his grade.

1 Arkansas—Little Rock
2 California—San Francisco and Los Angeles
3 Colorado—Denver
4 Georgia—Atlanta
5 Illinois—Chicago
6 Minnesota—St. Paul
7 Missouri—Kansas City
8 Montana—Missoula
9 New Mexico—Albuquerque
10 New York—New York
11 North Carolina—Raleigh
12 Oklahoma—Stillwater
13 Oregon—Portland
14 Pennsylvania—Harrisburg
15 Puerto Rico—Santurce
16 Texas—Dallas
17 Utah—Ogden
18 Wisconsin—Milwaukee

FRINGE BENEFITS

As a Federal employee, you will be entitled to:

Paid Vacations—13 work days a year for the first 3 years of service; 20 days a year for 3 to 15 years of service; and 26 days a year after 15 years of service. Previous Federal civilian and military service counts toward completion of the service requirement.

Retirement—A liberal retirement system under which the employer and employee each contribute 6½ percent of the employee's salary.

Incentive Awards—Cash awards are given for superior work performance, work improvements, and money-saving suggestions.

Life Insurance—Low-cost group life insurance is available through payroll deductions. The amount of insurance which may be purchased is the next thousand dollars above the employee's annual salary.

Health Insurance—A choice of health insurance plans, with the employer contributing up to one-half the cost of the premium.

HOW TO FILE AN APPLICATION

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the

Personnel Officer
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D.C.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

There is no written examination, but personal interviews with staff members, either in Washington or at a field office, are required. A representative of the office may visit some of the law schools during the school year to meet with interested students. For their convenience, graduates and students who plan to visit Washington, D.C., or a field office, are urged to arrange for personal interviews in advance.

Issued September 1961.

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1889
FOUNDATION OF MANUFACTURE

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